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work is complete, of exceptional merit, and indispensable to political economists, statesmen and financiers.

In chemistry the Jecker prize was given to M. Etard for his numerous and important discoveries in organic chemistry, among which may be cited his experiments upon the action of chlorochromic acid on organic substances, his researches on strychnine, on the ptomaines and on nicotine.

The "Prix Lacaze" was awarded to M. L. Cailletet for his investigations into the liquefaction of gases. He was the first to show the possibility of liquefying what are called the permanent gases, and science owes also to him a simple apparatus with which these experiments can be carried on without danger. *To be continued.*

— The French Society for the Advancement of Science, which will meet at Blois in September (4–11), has before it the duty of distributing a sum of about £800, being the first five years' accumulation of the legacy left to it in 1878, by M. Girard, to enable it to give rewards once in every five years to the person or persons who have most contributed to advance science upon the question of the antiquity of man with regard to geological formations.

— The number of applications for tickets for the British Association meeting this year is 772, and the council have resolved not to receive any more prior to the meeting at Montreal, when members and associates will be elected as usual.

— The Council of the British Association have resolved to receive the standing committee and fellows of the American Association on the footing of honorary members at the Montreal meeting.

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PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

Biological Society of Washington, May 3.—Communications were made by Dr. R. W. Shufeldt, U.S.A., on the occurrence of a pair of free ribs on the occipital bone of the large-mouthed black bass, *Micropterus salmoides;* by Mr. N. P. Scudder, observations upon the muskrat, *Fiber zibethicus;* and by Dr. Theodore Gill on the system of the Squali.

Boston Society of Natural History.—The annual meeting was held on May 7, 1884. Annual reports were made by the curator, secretary and treasurer, followed by the election of officers for 1884–5, and of candidates for membership. The third award of the grand Walker prize was announced, and the committee on the annual Walker prize made its report, awarding it to Dr. Tuttle for his essay on the anatomy and embryology of *Lunatia heros.* Mr. F. W. Putnam spoke of some interesting recent discoveries relating to the antiquity of man in America, in the Trenton gravels and in Nicaragua, and also gave evidence of the practice of cremation by an ancient people in the Little Miami valley. Dr. M. E. Wadsworth read a paper on the origin of ore deposits.

The last general meeting was held on May 21. Mr. S. Garman spoke of certain works of the Indians, and Professor A. Hyatt discussed the affinities of Beatricea.

NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, May 12.—The following papers were announced: The colored marbles of Lake Champlain (illustrated with a suite of specimens), by Mr. Arthur H. Elliott; a remarkable Chlorophane from Amelia county, Virginia, by Mr. George F. Kunz.

May 26.—The following papers were announced: Bees and other hoarding insects: their specialization into males, females and workers, by Mr. E. A. Curley; The origin of Puget sound and its connected system of tideways, by Professor John S. Newberry.

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB, May 14.—The following paper was presented: A photographic study of the Matterhorn, by Professor Edward C. Pickering.

AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, Jan. 18.—Professor Cope exhibited fossils of the family Oreodontidæ, and described their characteristic structure and geological relations. A drawing of a sarcophagus in Memorial Hall, with a translation of the legend on the cover, by Commodore McCauley, were exhibited. Dr. Frazer communicated a table of barometric levels taken by him recently in Texas and New Mexico, and described the geological structure of the neighborhood. Professor Cope remarked that the formation which forms the banks of the Rio Grande at Laredo, Texas, is in all probability the Laramie. It contains at that point a thick bed of pure lignite. Above Laredo, on both sides of the river, an excellent lignite is mined. The wide valley of the Rio Grande as far as the eastern ranges of the Sierra Madre is probably of Laramic age, as Dr. C. A. White reports fossil mollusca of that age from near Lampazas, at the foot of the mountains. Mr. Arthur Schott (U. S. Mex. Bound. Survey I, Geology, p. 35), first observed these lignites, and Mr. Conrad pointed out the existence of Claiborne Eocene beds in the same region (loc. cit., p. 141). Professor Cope stated that the Claiborne beds rested immediately on the Laramie at Laredo.

Feb. 1.—Professor Cope exhibited specimens of Creodonta, and sketched the classification of that order.

Feb. 15.—Sections of the anthracite coal measures, recently executed by the Geological Survey of the State, were exhibited.

Dr. Frazer exhibited copies of hieroglyphs found in the Puerto San Antonio, Coahuila, Mexico, not previously described, and also spoke of his discovery of a sacrificial stone of great weight and age, lying sixty or seventy miles distant from any similar rock, and in a mountain pass famous in history. Size five to six by three to four feet high. The edges are full of sharp serrations, and the weight must be at least five and one-half tons. The stone has a notch by which the blood flowed off.

March 7.—Professor Cope read a paper entitled "On the Structure of the Skull in the Elasmobranch genus Didymodus."

Mr. Ashburner presented some notes "On the aneroid hypsometry," and exhibited a self-registering field instrument.

March 21.—A communication from Professor Claypole, entitled "On the Clinton and other shales composing the Fifth Group of Rogers in the first survey of Pennsylvania," was read.

April 4.—Professor Lesley read from a letter of J. F. Carll, a correction of the horizon of *Eurypterus pennsylvanicus*, described by Mr. C. E. Hall. The fossil was found seventy-two feet above the mouth of the Pithole well, *i. e.*, 167 feet above the Berea or Pithole grit.

Mr. Blasius read a paper on the unhealthy condition of certain portions of great cities, owing to prevalent winds, and spoke of the necessity of rapid transit.

NATURAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION OF STATEN ISLAND, May 10.—In the absence of the president, Dr. Britton was elected chairman *pro tem.* Three new members were elected and other business transacted, after which Mr. Hollick read a paper upon "Recent discoveries of Indian Implements at Tottenville." The following is a complete list of the different objects thus far found: one axe, one pipe, five hammer stones, ten arrow-heads, thirty-seven net sinkers, seven miscellaneous and innumerable chips and fragments. It is but little more than a year since the first of these was accidentally discovered while on a field excursion to the locality. Since then, whenever the place has been visited and searched, relics have invariably been found. Mr. George F. Kunz, of New York, who was present by invitation, then presented the stone head found near Clifton, and gave the following account of the same: As now preserved it shows the material of which it was formed to be a brown sandstone, apparently more compact than the common New Jersey sandstone, and composed almost entirely of grains of quartz with an occasional small pebble, one of these, measuring one-fifth of an inch across, is on the bridge of the nose, and another, a little smaller, in the center of the forehead. The features are too well cut for a common offhand piece of work by a stonemaker; the style is not Egyptian or Eastern; rendering it unlikely that it is a part of an antiquity thrown away by some sailor; it is rather Mexican, and still more resembles Aztec work. This leads to the inference that it is probably of Indian origin, or if not, it is remotely possible that it was made by the early Dutch.